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AFFIRMATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE NAMED

GREENWICH, Conn. -- The Presiding Bishop and the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church have taken a first step to implement a 1979 General Convention resolution which calls on the Council "to initiate programs of public education on affirmative action at all levels of the Church."

The Rt. Rev. John M. Allin, Presiding Bishop, appointed an ad hoc committee on affirmative action to prepare a report for the February 25-27 meeting of the Council to comply with the Convention's request.

The 1979 Convention endorsed the principle of affirmative action, especially with regard to educational opportunities and employment practices. In addition to instructing the Council to prepare programs of public education, the Convention asked that body to seek to enlist the support of affirmative action from other religious bodies in the United States.

In the course of the discussion about Bishop Allin's appointment of such a committee, the Rev. Canon Junius Carter of Pittsburgh lamented the fact that with the retirement last summer of Bishop Richard B. Martin as Executive for Education for Mission and Ministry there is no longer a black in an administrative position.

He said that he had no objection to the appointment of the Rev. Edward Geyer as Executive Assistant to the Presiding Bishop, "but this is not a substitute for a black administrator."

Carter said that he and the Union of Black Episcopalians feel that the Episcopal Church is not making full use of the abilities of blacks.

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Bishop Allin's appointees to the affirmative action committee during the Council's Nov. 12-14 meeting are: Harry Griffith, Winter Park, Fla., chairman; William Baker, Lake Quivera, Kans.; Canon Carter; Matthew Chew, Scottsdale, Ariz.; Mrs. Helen Eisenhart, Bethesda, Md.; Mrs. Mary Flagg, Portland, Maine; the Rev. Joseph N. Green, Jr., Norfolk, Va.; the Rt. Rev. Christoph Keller of Arkansas; Dr. Paul Neuhauser, Iowa City, Iowa, and Dr. Arthur Raymond, Grand Forks, N.D.

Episcopal Church Center staff who will be available to the committee are Mrs. Alice Emery, Executive for National Mission in Church and Society, the Rt. Rev. Elliott L. Sorge, Executive for Education for Mission and Ministry, and the Rev. Earl A. Neil, Staff Officer for the Coalition for Human Needs.

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